Pulses, Oilseeds, Horticulture, Vegetable crops, Fisheries & Animal Husbandries, as a result of research work undertaken in Andhra Pradesh.

NATURAL FARMING

3312. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any initiative to encourage natural farmings' to enhance soil fertility in over-used lands ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of any finances allotted to Andhra Pradesh to give emphasis for propagation of natural farming ;

(d) whether any tie-up has been negotiated with urban townships and farming communities to utilise sewage for agriculture; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) Although as such no programmes have been initiated on 'natural farmings' but to maintain the soil fertility and to increase productivity due emphasis is being given to utilist all available manurial resources and use of bio-fertilisers as complementry source of nutrients.

(c) No funds have been allocated specifically for the propagation of natural farmings.

(d) and (e) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of balanced and integrated use of fertilisers provisions have been made for setting up of compost-plants in cities to supply city compost to farmers and to that extent there is a tie-up with the farmers.

BENEFT TO INDIAN FARMERS ON THE DUNKEL DRAFT STAND

3313. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of benefits to be reached to Indian farmers on the assumption that Dunkel Draft stand accepted compared to farmers in the developed countries ;

(b) whether it is a fact that farmers of developed countries have been getting so far much less subsidies from their Governments than Indian farmers ; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and what are the other ways of giving protection to agriculturists ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) It is anticipated that the result of the Uruguay Round Negotiations could lead to increase in international prices and thus better unit value realisation for export of Indian agricultural produce and may provide improved market access opportunities to agricultural export.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

कृषि को उद्योग का दर्जा दिए जाने की मांग

3314. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) कृषि को उद्योग का दर्जा दिए जाने की मांग पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है;

(ख) इस सम्बन्ध में क्या अग्रिम कार्यवाही हो रही है; और

(ग) इस पर अन्तिम निर्णय कब तक ले लिए जाने की संभावना है ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविन्द नेतम) :

(क) से (ग) सरकार द्वारा तैयार किए गए कृषि नीति संकल्प के संशोधित मसौदे में यह व्यवस्था की गई है कि "सरकार, कृषि को उद्योग के समान दर्जा देने के लिए एक सकारात्मक व्यापार तथा निवेश संबंधी वातावरण का सृजन करने का प्रयास करेगी । सरकार की नीति का उद्देश्य, प्रभावकारी प्रणालियों को विकसित करना तथा कृषि पर उद्योग के समान लाभ प्रदान करना होगा" संकल्प का संशोधित मसौदा 14 मई, 1993 को सभा पटल पर रखा गया है ।

DEMAND OF FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND MEAT ETC. IN GULF COUNTRIES

3315. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute demand in Gulf countries of fresh fruits, vegetables, meat etc. ;

(b) if so, whether Government have any plan to help the farmers to enter the Gulf-market ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

SUPPORT TO BASMATI RICE GROWERS

3316. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that prices of Basmati rice have dwindled to all time low ;

(c) what steps Government propose to take to support the Basmati rice growers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) The Wholesale Prices of Basmati Rice have recently shown a downward trend. This may be attributed to the commencement of kharif marketing season with effect from October, 1993.

(c) The minimum support prices fixed for fine and superfiine varieties for 1993-94 paddy crop are Rs. 330 and Rs. 350 per quintal as compared to Rs. 280 and Rs. 290 per quintal respectively for the 1992-93 crop. Resides, export of Basmati Rice has also been allowed.

NEW VARIETIES OF COTTON AND RICE BY PAU, LUDHIANA

3317. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that no new variety has been evolved in cotton, rice wheat by Punjab Agriculture University at Ludhiana and that the University research work is at stand still, if so, the reasons thereof and if not, the varieties developed by the University, cropwise ; and

(b) whether the cane cultivation is on the decline in Punjab and many Sugar Mills like Fazilka Co-op. Sugar Mills is not getting enough Sugarcane from the area if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. The varieties